

Figure 4. Female; a) mid leg, b) fore leg c) operculum.

Foodplants

C. abbreviatus will feed on bramble, wild rose, firethorn (*Pyracantha* sp.), eucalyptus (*E. gunnii*), raspberry and hawthorn.

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PSG 104, *Phaenopharos* sp.

Phil Bragg, 8 Cornwall Avenue, Beeston Rylands, Nottingham, NG9 1NL, UK.

Egg description and drawing by John Sellick.

Drawings of adults by E. Newman and Frank Hennemann.

Key words

Phasmida, *Phaenopharos* sp., Thailand, Rearing, Foodplants.

Classification

This species appears to be similar to *Phaenopharos struthioneus* (Westwood), the only species which has been described in this genus; PSG 104 is a much smaller species.

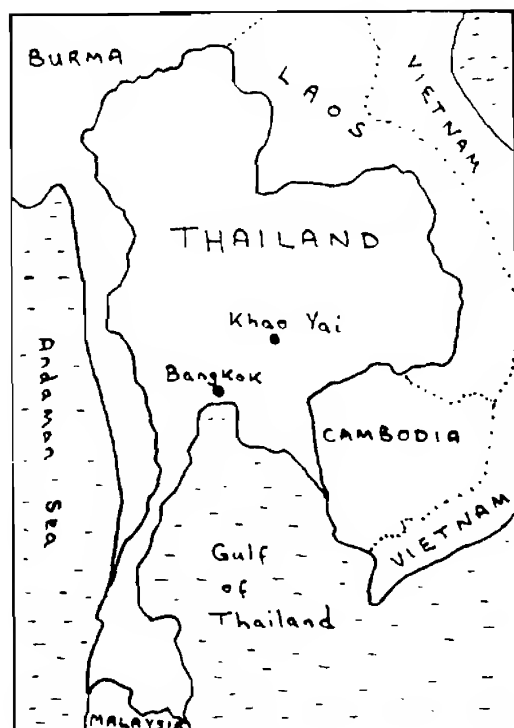


Figure 1. Map of Thailand.

Culture history

This culture originates from two females and three males which were collected in the Khao Yai National Park (fig 1.), Thailand by Heinz van Herwaarden and Oscar van Gorkom during August 1988. The collecting area has an altitude of 825m, annual rainfall of 1600-2400mm and at the time of collection a temperature ranging from 17°C to 23°C. The five specimens reached Europe alive and the species had already been distributed to quite a few members by July 1989 when I was given two mated females. This species has previously been illustrated and described as "Seventh species, Thailand red microwings" (Herwaarden 1989).

Description of the adults (fig 2.)

The most distinctive features of this species are the wings. There are no fore wings, only a small pair of hind wings on the metathorax. These are black or dark brown at the leading edge, the rest of the wing is bright red. The wings of the female are about 6mm long, those of the male are about 4mm. The wings are displayed when the insect is disturbed, especially if the end of the abdomen is firmly

held. The basic colour of females ranges from pale fawn to almost black. Although the colouring appears constant along the length of the body, the females are in fact mottled with darker patches. Males are generally dark brown or black, fawn being less common than in the females and do not appear to be mottled. Females are about 10-12cm in length, males 9-10cm. The mesothorax and metathorax of the female are covered in small spines, these are present in the males as small granules. The femora are all quite flattened, particularly in the female. There are a pair of spines on the ends of the middle and hind femora, just before the joint with the tibiae, these are particularly noticeable in the male. The first segment of the front tarsi in the females have a large lobe which is absent in the male.

Egg (fig 3.)

Egg uniformly black to the naked eye. Magnification shows a dark grey micropylar plate and main capsule, with variable black patches laterally. Micropylar plate obscure, stretching almost the length of the dorsal surface. The operculum bears a black capitulum which is completely hollow and readily collapses. Typical measurements: length 3.4mm, width 2.5mm, height 3.0mm; capitulum length 0.5mm, width 0.8mm; micropylar length 3.0mm, width 0.7mm.

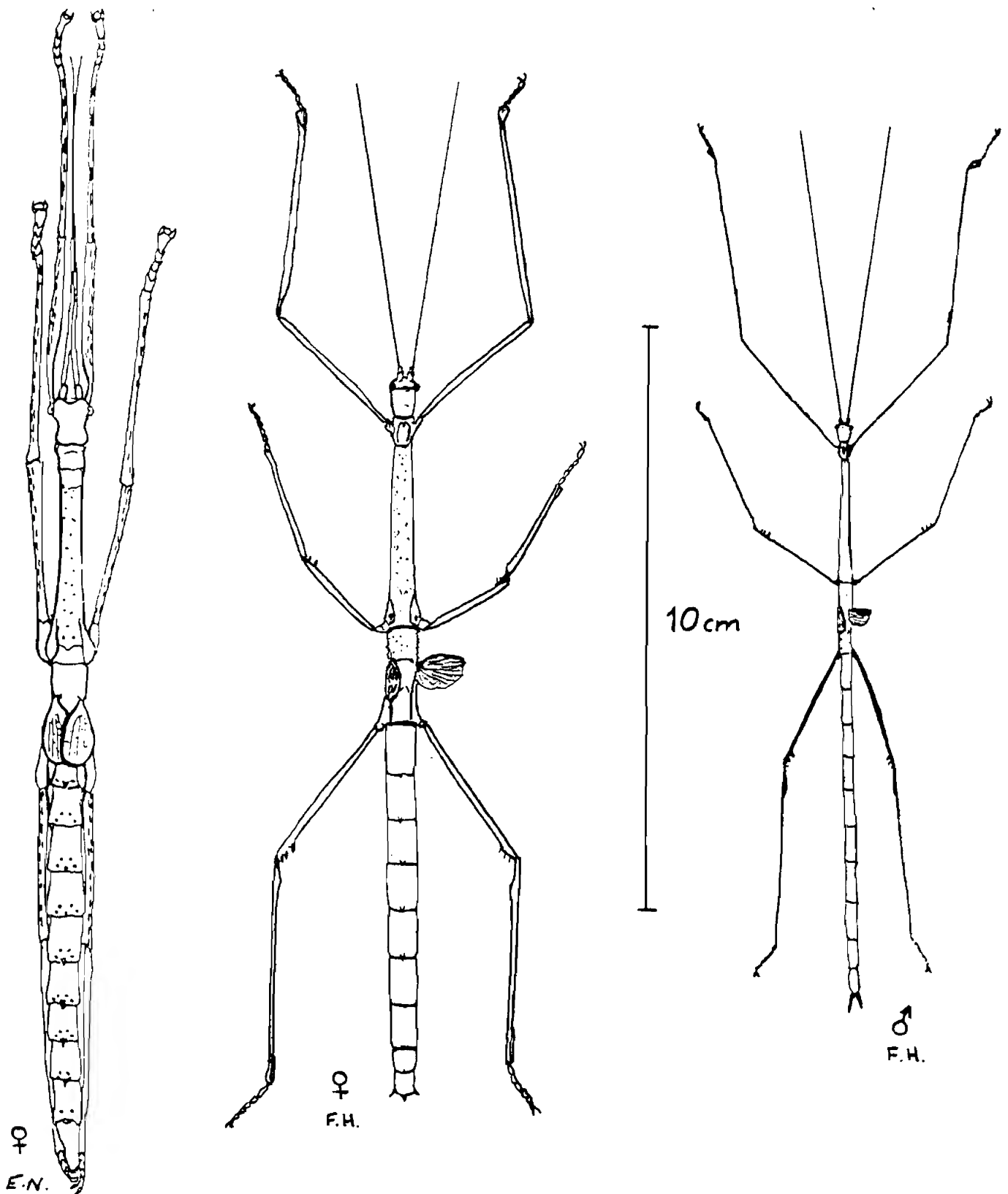


Figure 2. Females and male of PSG 104.

Behaviour

This species is nocturnal and commonly plays dead when handled during the daytime. However persistent handling causes them to "wake up" and try walking away. If the abdomen is gripped at this stage the bright red wings flash open, usually being held open for several seconds and sometimes for as much as half a minute. The contrast between the plain black or brown body and